

CLAIMS

1. A telecommunication network having at least one
database of functions for controlling the network, said
database comprising at least a data function and a data
5 control function;

characterised in that:

the database is replicated a plurality of times, the
database of one of said replicated databases is a primary
database, the data control function of which is arranged
10 to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of
said replicated databases, and at least a second database
is a primary standby database, the data control function
of which is arranged to generate signals for synchronised
updating of all of said replicated databases in the event
15 of a failure of said primary database.

2. A network according to claim 1, wherein a plurality
of databases are primary standby databases.

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3. A network according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein
databases other than said primary database and said
20 primary standby database(s) are secondary databases and
are arranged to signal to said primary and/or said
primary standby database(s) when they have been updated
in response to the updating signals from said primary of

said primary standby database(s).

4. A method of operating a telecommunication network,
in which the network is controlled by at least one
database of functions, said database comprising at least

5 a data function and a data control function;

characterised in that:

the database is replicated a plurality of times, and
the method comprises:

designating one of said replicated databases as a
10 primary database;

designating at least one other of said replicated
databases as a primary standby database;

updating all of said replicated databases on the
basis of updating signals from said primary database
15 unless said primary database has failed; and

updating all of said replicated databases on the
basis of updating signals from said at least one primary
standby database when said primary database has failed.

5. A telecommunications network comprising:

20 a primary database having at least a data function
and a data control function; and

a plurality of secondary databases which are
replicas of the primary database, wherein at least one of

the secondary databases in a primary standby database;

wherein the data control function of the primary database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating the secondary databases, and wherein the data

5 control function of the primary standby database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of the secondary databases in the even of a failure of the primary database.

6. A network according to claim 5, further comprising a
10 plurality of primary standby databases.

7. A network according to claim 5, wherein the secondary databases other than the primary database are arranged to signal to the primary and/or the primary standby database(s) when they have been updated in
15 response to the updating signals from the primary database.

8. A method of operating a telecommunication network, comprising:

providing an initial database having at least a data
20 function and a data control function;

replicating the initial database to form plurality of replicated databases;

designating one of the replicated databases as a

primary database;

designating at least one other of the replicated
databases as a primary standby database;

updating all of the replicated database on the basis
5 of updating signals received from the primary database
unless the primary database has failed; and

updating all of the replicated databases on the
basis of updating signals from the at least one primary
standby database when the primary database has failed.

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